

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 015786
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00
HA-05 SIG-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /119 R

DRAFTED BY IO/ML:CTSPEH/PWKRIEBEL:SC
APPROVED BY IO:GADALLEY
AF/I:LSHURTTLEFF
ARA/RPP:POAKLEY
EA/RA:LMCNUTT
EUR:DGOOTT
NEA:SPERRY
D/HA:RMAXIM
USUN:EMEZVINSKY (SUBS)

-----073859 200549Z /13

P R 200204Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
USINT HAVANA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO PRIORITY
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 015786

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY WARSAW PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, GENEVA,
FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 10

1. INTRODUCTION: THIS CABLE IS THE FIRST OF TWO
THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO SEND TO POSTS IN PREPARATION
FOR THE 34TH MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
IN GENEVA, FEB. 6 - MARCH 10. IT ASKS ACTION POSTS TO
OPEN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.
A FOLLOW UP CABLE WILL PRESENT US POSITIONS ON KEY
ISSUES WE EXPECT TO BE ADDRESSED DURING THE SESSION,
WHICH SELECTED POSTS WILL BE ASKED TO DISCUSS WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 015786

HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. BACKGROUND: THE US MADE A MAJOR EFFORT AT THE
32ND UNGA TO RAISE THE LEVELS OF OBSERVANCE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD. WHILE THE RESULTS
WERE MIXED, THE ASSEMBLY DID ADOPT RESOLUTIONS ON
TORTURE, HIJACKING AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN. A
RESOLUTION ON UGANDA WAS NOT PUT TO THE VOTE BUT
AFRICAN STATES AGREED INFORMALLY TO HAVE THE ISSUE
DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION. OUR MAJOR EFFORT ON A HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCHR) WAS DEFERRED BUT GATHERED A
SURPRISING DEGREE OF SUPPORT. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AGENDA. WE HOPE TO
DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THERE BEFORE DECIDING
WHETHER TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT AT THE 33RD UNGA.

3. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION SESSION CONTAINS 28 ITEMS, FAR TOO MANY
FOR THE 5-WEEK SESSION. FOLLOWING ITS USUAL PRACTICE,
IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL DEVOTE THE

BULK OF ITS TIME TO 10-12 ITEMS OF THE GREATEST
CURRENT INTEREST. AMONG THESE ITEMS WILL BE:

(A) HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES;

(B) HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE;

(C) HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;

(D) THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
RIGHTS;

(E) THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION;

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 015786

(F) THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER DETENTION AND THE
PROBLEM OF TORTURE;

(G) THE FUTURE PROGRAM AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE
COMMISSION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD;

(H) VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH A REVIEW OF GROSS
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION
ACCORDING TO SPECIAL PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN ECOSOC
RESOLUTION 1503;

(I) OTHER CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH MEMBER
STATES OF THE COMMISSION MAY RAISE, SUCH AS CYPRUS;

(J) REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMISSION ON
PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES;

(K) DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS
INTOLERANCE;

(L) THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS; AND

(M) ELECTION OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 26-MEMBER
SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

AN ANNOTATED AGENDA IS BEING POUCHED TO ALL POSTS. THE
US EXPECTS TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT DURING COMMISSION
MEETING. ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES(MINUS COPENHAGEN,
USUN AND GENEVA, PLUS US AND UGANDA)ARE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION, AND ARE EXPECTED TO FIELD DELEGATIONS
DURING THE MEETING. US DELEGATION WILL BE CHAIRED
BY NEW US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HRC, ED MEZVINSKY, FORMER
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 015786

CONGRESSMAN FROM IOWA.

4. THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE AMONG THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AN INTEREST WHICH MAY WELL BE REFLECTED IN INCREASED MEDIA COVERAGE. SENEGAL WILL CHAIR MEETING AND AFRICAN ISSUES CONSEQUENTLY WILL BE OF EVEN MORE INTEREST THAN USUAL. GIVEN LONG AND INTENSIVE AFRICAN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES MEDIA AND CONGRESS WILL BE INTERESTED IN TREATMENT GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN REST OF AFRICA AS WELL. DEPT CONSIDERS THAT BEST PROSPECTS FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME OF MEETING LIE IN FULL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE AND DURING CONFERENCE WITH SYMPATHETIC MEMBER STATES. IF CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE WELL INFORMED ON IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO MEETING AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE REFERENCE TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH US DELEGATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS POSTS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD SEEK TO CONTACT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY US INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING. IN DISCUSSIONS, POSTS SHOULD STATE THAT MEZVINSKY WILL HEAD US DELEGATION BUT OTHER MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SELECTED. MEZVINSKY WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE MEETING. POSTS SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT WE WISH TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES CLOSER TO MEETING DATE BUT SOLICIT ANY COMMENTS HOST GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE AT THIS POINT ON GENERAL DIRECTION OF MEETING AND ISSUES OF INTEREST. INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT DELEGATION WOULD BE WELCOME WITH POST ANALYSIS OF EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY BE APPROACHED BY US DELEGATION IN GENEVA. INFO POSTS NEED NOT MAKE REPRESENTATION UNLESS POST THINKS THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL. REPORTS ON CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06 STATE 015786

INITIAL CONTACTS SHOULD BE SENT INFO TO USUN AND GENEVA.

FOR HAVANA: APPRECIATE REPORT OF INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REITERATE TO CUBANS GENERAL INTEREST OF US IN POSITIVE OUTCOME OF COMMISSION MEETING.

MIGUEL ALFONSO MARTINEZ HAS BEEN CUBAN REP NEW YORK
ON HR MATTERS AND MIGHT BE USEFUL CONTACT.

FOR DAKAR: GOS (M'BAYE) WILL CHAIR MEETING HRC.
IF POSSIBLE, SUGGEST AMBASSADOR MAKE KNOWN TO
M'BAYE US INTEREST IN WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH
HIM AT MEETING. IN HIS ABSENCE, VIEWS SHOULD BE
CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

FOR COPENHAGEN: WHILE INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBERS ARE
REPRESENTED ON COMMISSION, EC CAUCUSES IN GENEVA ON
COMMISSION ISSUES. BELIEVE IT COULD BE USEFUL TO
DISCUSS HRC IN GENERAL TERMS WITH DANES.

FOR MONTEVIDEO: WE ARE AWARE THAT USUN 0165
REPORTING ON JANUARY 18 CONVERSATION WITH URUGUAYAN
PERM REP CARLOS GIAMBRUNO PROBABLY REPRESENTS CURRENT
GOU POSITION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETING.
FURTHER, WE WOULD NOT WANT DISCUSSION OF THE UN
MEETING TO SIDETRACK CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A
POSSIBLE 1978 IAHR VISIT TO URUGUAY. THEREFORE,
EMBASSY SHOULD USE ITS DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER SUCH
PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED.

CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 015786
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND/CH:R STEVEN
APPROVED BY: ARA/AND/CH:R STEVEN
-----101792 212015Z /41
R 210705Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015786

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ABIDJAN AMMAN ANKARA BELGRADE BOGOTA BRASILIA
CAIRO CANBERRA DAMASCUS HAVANA ISLAMABAD KIGALI LAGOS LIMA
LONDON MASERU MONTEVIDEO NEW DELHI NICOSIA OTTAWA PANAMA PARIS
STOCKHOLM TEHRAN TRIPOLI VIENNA WARSAW INFO COPENHAGEN

GENEVA MOSCOW SOFIA USUN NEW YORK FROM SECSTATE DTD 20 JAN 1978

QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, GENEVA,
FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 10

1. INTRODUCTION: THIS CABLE IS THE FIRST OF TWO
THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO SEND TO POSTS IN PREPARATION
FOR THE 34TH MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
IN GENEVA, FEB. 6 - MARCH 10. IT ASKS ACTION POSTS TO
OPEN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.
A FOLLOW UP CABLE WILL PRESENT US POSITIONS ON KEY
ISSUES WE EXPECT TO BE ADDRESSED DURING THE SESSION,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 015786

WHICH SELECTED POSTS WILL BE ASKED TO DISCUSS WITH
HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. BACKGROUND: THE US MADE A MAJOR EFFORT AT THE
32ND UNGA TO RAISE THE LEVELS OF OBSERVANCE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD. WHILE THE RESULTS
WERE MIXED, THE ASSEMBLY DID ADOPT RESOLUTIONS ON
TORTURE, HIJACKING AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN. A
RESOLUTION ON UGANDA WAS NOT PUT TO THE VOTE BUT
AFRICAN STATES AGREED INFORMALLY TO HAVE THE ISSUE
DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION. OUR MAJOR EFFORT ON A HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCHR) WAS DEFERRED BUT GATHERED A
SURPRISING DEGREE OF SUPPORT. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AGENDA. WE HOPE TO
DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THERE BEFORE DECIDING
WHETHER TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT AT THE 33RD UNGA.

3. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION SESSION CONTAINS 28 ITEMS, FAR TOO MANY
FOR THE 5-WEEK SESSION. FOLLOWING ITS USUAL PRACTICE,
IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL DEVOTE THE
BULK OF ITS TIME TO 10-12 ITEMS OF THE GREATEST
CURRENT INTEREST. AMONG THESE ITEMS WILL BE:

(A) HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES;

(B) HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE;

(C) HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;

(D) THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 015786

RIGHTS;

(E) THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION;

(F) THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER DETENTION AND THE
PROBLEM OF TORTURE;

(G) THE FUTURE PROGRAM AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE
COMMISSION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD;

(H) VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH A REVIEW OF GROSS
VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION
ACCORDING TO SPECIAL PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN ECOSOC
RESOLUTION 1503;

(I) OTHER CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH MEMBER
STATES OF THE COMMISSION MAY RAISE, SUCH AS CYPRUS;

(J) REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMISSION ON
PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES;

(K) DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS
INTOLERANCE;

(L) THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS; AND

(M) ELECTION OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 26-MEMBER
SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND
PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

AN ANNOTATED AGENDA IS BEING POUCHED TO ALL POSTS. THE
US EXPECTS TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT DURING COMMISSION
MEETING. ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES(MINUS COPENHAGEN,
USUN AND GENEVA, PLUS US AND UGANDA)ARE MEMBERS OF THE
COMMISSION, AND ARE EXPECTED TO FIELD DELEGATIONS
DURING THE MEETING. US DELEGATION WILL BE CHAIRED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 015786

BY NEW US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HRC, ED MEZVINSKY, FORMER
CONGRESSMAN FROM IOWA.

4. THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE AMONG THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AN INTEREST WHICH MAY WELL BE REFLECTED IN INCREASED MEDIA COVERAGE. SENEGAL WILL CHAIR MEETING AND AFRICAN ISSUES CONSEQUENTLY WILL BE OF EVEN MORE INTEREST THAN USUAL. GIVEN LONG AND INTENSIVE AFRICAN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES MEDIA AND CONGRESS WILL BE INTERESTED IN TREATMENT GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN REST OF AFRICA AS WELL. DEPT CONSIDERS THAT BEST PROSPECTS FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME OF MEETING LIE IN FULL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE AND DURING CONFERENCE WITH SYMPATHETIC MEMBER STATES. IF CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE WELL INFORMED ON IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO MEETING AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE REFERENCE TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH US DELEGATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS POSTS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD SEEK TO CONTACT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY US INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING. IN DISCUSSIONS, POSTS SHOULD STATE THAT MEZVINSKY WILL HEAD US DELEGATION BUT OTHER MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SELECTED. MEZVINSKY WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE MEETING. POSTS SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT WE WISH TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES CLOSER TO MEETING DATE BUT SOLICIT ANY COMMENTS HOST GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE AT THIS POINT ON GENERAL DIRECTION OF MEETING AND ISSUES OF INTEREST. INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT DELEGATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 015786

WOULD BE WELCOME WITH POST ANALYSIS OF EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY BE APPROACHED BY US DELEGATION IN GENEVA. INFO POSTS NEED NOT MAKE REPRESENTATION UNLESS POST THINKS THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL. REPORTS ON INITIAL CONTACTS SHOULD BE SENT INFO TO USUN AND GENEVA.

FOR HAVANA: APPRECIATE REPORT OF INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REITERATE TO CUBANS GENERAL INTEREST OF US IN POSITIVE OUTCOME OF COMMISSION MEETING. MIGUEL ALFONSO MARTINEZ HAS BEEN CUBAN REP NEW YORK ON HR MATTERS AND MIGHT BE USEFUL CONTACT.

FOR DAKAR: GOS (M'BAYE) WILL CHAIR MEETING HRC. IF POSSIBLE, SUGGEST AMBASSADOR MAKE KNOWN TO M'BAYE US INTEREST IN WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH

HIM AT MEETING. IN HIS ABSENCE, VIEWS SHOULD BE
CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

FOR COPENHAGEN: WHILE INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBERS ARE
REPRESENTED ON COMMISSION, EC CAUCUSES IN GENEVA ON
COMMISSION ISSUES. BELIEVE IT COULD BE USEFUL TO
DISCUSS HRC IN GENERAL TERMS WITH DANES.

FOR MONYEVVIDEO: WE ARE AWARE THAT USUN 0165
REPORTING ON JANUARY 18 CONVERSATION WITH URUGUAYAN
PERM REP CARLOS GIAMBRUNO PROBABLY REPRESENTS CURRENT
GOU POSITION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETING.
FURTHER, WE WOULD NOT WANT DISCUSSION OF THE UN
MEETING TO SIDETRACK CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A
POSSIBLE 1978 IAHRV VISIT TO URUGUAY. THEREFORE,
EMBASSY SHOULD USE ITS DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER SUCH
PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. CHRISTOPHER UNQTE
CHRISTOPHER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 015786
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /015 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: IO/HR:WARREN HEWITT

APPROVEDBY: IO:TBROWN

-----007010 021950Z /72

R 021510Z FEB 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA 0000

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015786

FOL TEL SENT ACTION ABIDJAN AMMAN ANKARA BELGRADE BOGOTA BRASILIA
CAIRO CANBERRA DAMASCUS HAVANA ISLAMABAD KIGALI LAGOS LIMA
LONDON MASERU MONTEVIDEO NEW DELHI NICOSIA OTTAWA PANAMA PARIS
STOCKHOLM TEHRAN TRIPOLI VIENNA WARSAW INFO COPENHAGEN
GENEVA MOSCOW SOFIA USUN NEW YORK FROM SECSTATE DTD 20 JAN 1978
QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015786

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM

SUBJECT: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, GENEVA,
FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 10

1. INTRODUCTION: THIS CABLE IS THE FIRST OF TWO
THE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO SEND TO POSTS IN PREPARATION
FOR THE 34TH MEETING OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
IN GENEVA, FEB. 6 - MARCH 10. IT ASKS ACTION POSTS TO
OPEN PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS WITH HOST GOVERNMENTS.
A FOLLOW UP CABLE WILL PRESENT US POSITIONS ON KEY
ISSUES WE EXPECT TO BE ADDRESSED DURING THE SESSION,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 015786

WHICH SELECTED POSTS WILL BE ASKED TO DISCUSS WITH
HOST GOVERNMENTS.

2. BACKGROUND: THE US MADE A MAJOR EFFORT AT THE
32ND UNGA TO RAISE THE LEVELS OF OBSERVANCE OF
HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE WORLD. WHILE THE RESULTS
WERE MIXED, THE ASSEMBLY DID ADOPT RESOLUTIONS ON
TORTURE, HIJACKING AND THE STATUS OF WOMEN. A
RESOLUTION ON UGANDA WAS NOT PUT TO THE VOTE BUT
AFRICAN STATES AGREED INFORMALLY TO HAVE THE ISSUE
DISCUSSED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS

COMMISSION. OUR MAJOR EFFORT ON A HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (HCHR) WAS DEFERRED BUT GATHERED A
SURPRISING DEGREE OF SUPPORT. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE ON
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AGENDA. WE HOPE TO
DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SUPPORT THERE BEFORE DECIDING
WHETHER TO PURSUE THE SUBJECT AT THE 33RD UNGA.

3. PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMISSION SESSION CONTAINS 28 ITEMS, FAR TOO MANY
FOR THE 5-WEEK SESSION. FOLLOWING ITS USUAL PRACTICE,
IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE COMMISSION WILL DEVOTE THE
BULK OF ITS TIME TO 10-12 ITEMS OF THE GREATEST
CURRENT INTEREST. AMONG THESE ITEMS WILL BE:

(A) HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES;

(B) HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE;

(C) HUMAN RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA;

(D) THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 015786

RIGHTS;

(E) THE RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION;

(F) THE PROTECTION OF PERSONS UNDER DETENTION AND THE PROBLEM OF TORTURE;

(G) THE FUTURE PROGRAM AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD;

(H) VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, WITH A REVIEW OF GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS REFERRED TO THE COMMISSION ACCORDING TO SPECIAL PROCEDURES LAID DOWN IN ECOSOC RESOLUTION 1503;

(I) OTHER CASES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WHICH MEMBER STATES OF THE COMMISSION MAY RAISE, SUCH AS CYPRUS;

(J) REPORT OF THE COMMISSION'S SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES;

(K) DRAFT DECLARATION ON THE ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE;

(L) THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WORKERS; AND

(M) ELECTION OF THE ENTIRE MEMBERSHIP OF THE 26-MEMBER SUBCOMMISSION ON PREVENTION OF DISCRIMINATION AND PROTECTION OF MINORITIES.

AN ANNOTATED AGENDA IS BEING POUCHED TO ALL POSTS. THE US EXPECTS TO BE AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT DURING COMMISSION MEETING. ACTION AND INFO ADDRESSEES(MINUS COPENHAGEN, USUN AND GENEVA, PLUS US AND UGANDA)ARE MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION, AND ARE EXPECTED TO FIELD DELEGATIONS DURING THE MEETING. US DELEGATION WILL BE CHAIRED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 015786

BY NEW US REPRESENTATIVE TO THE HRC, ED MEZVINSKY, FORMER CONGRESSMAN FROM IOWA.

4. THERE WILL BE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THE CONFERENCE AMONG THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PUBLIC, AN INTEREST WHICH MAY WELL BE REFLECTED IN INCREASED MEDIA COVERAGE. SENEGAL WILL CHAIR MEETING AND AFRICAN ISSUES CONSEQUENTLY WILL BE OF EVEN MORE INTEREST THAN USUAL. GIVEN LONG AND INTENSIVE AFRICAN INTEREST IN SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES MEDIA AND CONGRESS WILL BE

INTERESTED IN TREATMENT GIVEN HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN REST OF AFRICA AS WELL. DEPT CONSIDERS THAT BEST PROSPECTS FOR POSITIVE OUTCOME OF MEETING LIE IN FULL CONSULTATIONS BEFORE AND DURING CONFERENCE WITH SYMPATHETIC MEMBER STATES. IF CONSULTATIONS ARE TO BE EFFECTIVE BELIEVE HOST GOVERNMENTS SHOULD BE WELL INFORMED ON IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO MEETING AND THAT INSTRUCTIONS TO FRIENDLY DELEGATIONS SHOULD INCLUDE REFERENCE TO CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH US DELEGATION.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: UNLESS POSTS BELIEVE IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE, ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD SEEK TO CONTACT HIGHEST APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AT EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY TO CONVEY US INTEREST IN COOPERATIVE PRODUCTIVE HUMAN RIGHTS MEETING. IN DISCUSSIONS, POSTS SHOULD STATE THAT MEZVINSKY WILL HEAD US DELEGATION BUT OTHER MEMBERS HAVE NOT YET BEEN SELECTED. MEZVINSKY WILL WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS PRIOR TO AND DURING THE MEETING. POSTS SHOULD ALSO STATE THAT WE WISH TO DISCUSS SPECIFIC ISSUES CLOSER TO MEETING DATE BUT SOLICIT ANY COMMENTS HOST GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE AT THIS POINT ON GENERAL DIRECTION OF MEETING AND ISSUES OF INTEREST. INFORMATION ON HOST GOVERNMENT DELEGATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 015786

WOULD BE WELCOME WITH POST ANALYSIS OF EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUALS MAY BE APPROACHED BY US DELEGATION IN GENEVA. INFO POSTS NEED NOT MAKE REPRESENTATION UNLESS POST THINKS THIS MIGHT BE USEFUL. REPORTS ON INITIAL CONTACTS SHOULD BE SENT INFO TO USUN AND GENEVA.

FOR HAVANA: APPRECIATE REPORT OF INITIAL CONSULTATIONS WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REITERATE TO CUBANS GENERAL INTEREST OF US IN POSITIVE OUTCOME OF COMMISSION MEETING. MIGUEL ALFONSO MARTINEZ HAS BEEN CUBAN REP NEW YORK ON HR MATTERS AND MIGHT BE USEFUL CONTACT.

FOR DAKAR: GOS (M'BAYE) WILL CHAIR MEETING HRC. IF POSSIBLE, SUGGEST AMBASSADOR MAKE KNOWN TO M'BAYE US INTEREST IN WORKING COOPERATIVELY WITH HIM AT MEETING. IN HIS ABSENCE, VIEWS SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS.

FOR COPENHAGEN: WHILE INDIVIDUAL EC MEMBERS ARE REPRESENTED ON COMMISSION, EC CAUCUSES IN GENEVA ON COMMISSION ISSUES. BELIEVE IT COULD BE USEFUL TO DISCUSS HRC IN GENERAL TERMS WITH DANES.

FOR MONTEVIDEO: WE ARE AWARE THAT USUN 0165
REPORTING ON JANUARY 18 CONVERSATION WITH URUGUAYAN
PERM REP CARLOS GIAMBRUNO PROBABLY REPRESENTS CURRENT
GOU POSITION ON THE FORTHCOMING GENEVA MEETING.
FURTHER, WE WOULD NOT WANT DISCUSSION OF THE UN
MEETING TO SIDETRACK CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS FOR A
POSSIBLE 1978 IAHRC VISIT TO URUGUAY. THEREFORE,
EMBASSY SHOULD USE ITS DISCRETION AS TO WHETHER SUCH
PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED. CHRISTOPHER UNQTE
CHRISTOPHER UNQTE VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, PLANNING MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE015786
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: CTSPEH/PWKRIEBEL:SC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780030-0367
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780139/aaaabgxj.tel
Line Count: 666
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7514c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 13
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3738371
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING, GENEVA, FEBRUARY 6 - MARCH 10
TAGS: SHUM, OCON
To: ABIDJAN AMMAN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7514c7e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014